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**FORM 8-A**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

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**FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR 12(g) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

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**TOUCH AMERICA HOLDINGS, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State of incorporation  
or organization)

81-0540231  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

130 North Main Street  
Butte, Montana 59701-9932  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

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If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), check the following box. ☐

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(d), check the following box. ☐

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates (if applicable): N/A

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class to be so registered  
Preferred Stock Purchase Rights

Name of each exchange on which  
each class is to be registered  
New York Stock Exchange  
Pacific Exchange, Inc.

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None  
(Title of Class)

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The Commission is respectfully requested to send copies of all notices, orders and communications to:

PATRICK T. FLEMING, ESQ.  
TOUCH AMERICA HOLDINGS, INC.  
130 NORTH MAIN STREET  
BUTTE, MONTANA 59701-9932

JOHN T. O'CONNOR, ESQ.  
MILBANK, TWEED, HADLY & MCCLOY LLP  
1 CHASE MANHATTAN PLAZA  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10005

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## INFORMATION REQUIRED IN REGISTRATION STATEMENT

### Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

In resolutions dated February 13, 2002 and July 23, 2002, the Board of Directors of Touch America Holdings, Inc. (the "Company") declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right (a "Right") for each outstanding share of common stock, par value \$.01 per share (the "Common Shares"), of the Company. The dividend is payable on August 1, 2002 (the "Record Date") to the stockholders of record on that date. Each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase from the Company one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$.01 per share (the "Preferred Shares"), of the Company at a price of \$12.00 per one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share (the "Purchase Price"), subject to adjustment. The description and terms of the Rights are set forth in a Rights Agreement dated as of August 1, 2002 (the "Rights Agreement") between the Company and The Bank of New York, as Rights Agent (the "Rights Agent").

Until the earlier to occur of (i) 10 days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons have acquired beneficial ownership of 15% (which percentage may be reduced pursuant to the Rights Agreement) or more of the outstanding Common Shares of the Company (an "Acquiring Person") or (ii) 10 business days (or such later date as may be determined by action of the Board of Directors prior to such time as any person or group of affiliated persons becomes an Acquiring Person) following the commencement of, or announcement of an intention to make, a tender offer or exchange offer the consummation of which would result in the beneficial ownership by a person or group of 15% (which percentage may be reduced pursuant to the Rights Agreement) or more of the outstanding Common Shares (the earlier of such dates being called the "Distribution Date"), the Rights will be evidenced, with respect to any of the Common Share certificates outstanding as of the Record Date, by such Common Share certificate with a copy of this Summary of Rights attached thereto.

The Rights Agreement provides that, until the Distribution Date (or earlier redemption or expiration of the Rights), the Rights will be transferred with and only with the Common Shares. Until the Distribution Date (or earlier redemption or expiration of the Rights), new Common Share certificates issued after the Record Date upon transfer or new issuance of Common Shares will contain a notation incorporating the Rights Agreement by reference. Until the Distribution Date (or earlier redemption or expiration of the Rights), the surrender for transfer of any certificates for Common Shares outstanding as of the Record Date, even without such notation or a copy of this Summary of Rights being attached thereto, will also constitute the transfer of the Rights associated with the Common Shares represented by such certificate. As soon as practicable following the Distribution Date, separate certificates evidencing the Rights ("Right Certificates") will be mailed to holders of record of the Common Shares as of the close of business on the Distribution Date and such separate Right Certificates alone will evidence the Rights.

The Rights are not exercisable until the Distribution Date. The Rights will expire on August 1, 2012 (the “Final Expiration Date”), unless the Final Expiration Date is extended or the Rights are earlier redeemed or exchanged by the Company, in each case, as described below.

The Purchase Price payable, and the number of Preferred Shares or other securities or property issuable, upon exercise of the Rights are subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution (i) in the event of a stock dividend on, or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of, the Preferred Shares, (ii) upon the grant to holders of the Preferred Shares of certain rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase Preferred Shares at a price, or securities convertible into Preferred Shares with a conversion price, less than the then-current market price of the Preferred Shares or (iii) upon the distribution to holders of the Preferred Shares of evidences of indebtedness or assets (excluding regular periodic cash dividends paid out of earnings or retained earnings or dividends payable in Preferred Shares) or of subscription rights or warrants (other than those referred to above).

The number of outstanding Rights and the number of one one-hundredths of a Preferred Share issuable upon exercise of each Right are also subject to adjustment in the event of a stock split of the Common Shares or a stock dividend on the Common Shares payable in Common Shares or subdivisions, consolidations or combinations of the Common Shares occurring, in any such case, prior to the Distribution Date.

Preferred Shares purchasable upon exercise of the Rights will not be redeemable. Each Preferred Share will be entitled to a minimum preferential quarterly dividend payment of \$1 per share but will be entitled to an aggregate dividend of 100 times the dividend declared per Common Share. In the event of liquidation, the holders of the Preferred Shares will be entitled to a minimum preferential liquidation payment of \$100 per share but will be entitled to an aggregate payment of 100 times the payment made per Common Share. Each Preferred Share will have 100 votes, voting together with the Common Shares. Finally, in the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which Common Shares are exchanged, each Preferred Share will be entitled to receive 100 times the amount received per Common Share. These rights are protected by customary antidilution provisions.

Because of the nature of the Preferred Shares’ dividend, liquidation and voting rights, the value of the one one-hundredth interest in a Preferred Share purchasable upon exercise of each Right should approximate the value of one Common Share.

In the event that any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person, the Rights Agreement provides that proper provision shall be made so that each holder of a Right, other than Rights beneficially owned by the Acquiring Person (which will thereafter be void), will thereafter have the right to receive (subject to adjustment) upon exercise that number of Common Shares having a market value of two times the exercise price of the Right. At any time after any person or group becomes an Acquiring Person and prior to the acquisition by such person or group of 50% or more of the outstanding Common Shares, the Board of Directors of the Company may exchange the Rights (other than Rights owned by such person or group, which will have become void), in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one Common Share, or one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share (or of a share of a class or series of

the Company's preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges), per Right (subject to adjustment).

The Rights Agreement provides that none of the Company's directors or officers shall be deemed to beneficially own any Common Shares owned by any other director or officer by virtue of such persons acting in their capacities as such, including in connection with the formulation and publication of the Board of Directors recommendation of its position, and actions taken in furtherance thereof, with respect to an acquisition proposal relating to the Company or a tender or exchange offer for the Common Shares.

In the event that the Company is acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction or 50% or more of its consolidated assets or earning power are sold after a person or group has become an Acquiring Person, proper provision will be made so that each holder of a Right will thereafter have the right to receive, upon the exercise thereof at the then current exercise price of the Right, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring company which at the time of such transaction will have a market value of two times the exercise price of the Right.

With certain exceptions, no adjustment in the Purchase Price will be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% in such Purchase Price. No fractional Preferred Shares will be issued (other than fractions which are integral multiples of one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share, which may, at the election of the Company, be evidenced by depositary receipts) and in lieu thereof, an adjustment in cash will be made based on the market price of the Preferred Shares on the last trading day prior to the date of exercise.

At any time prior to the acquisition by a person or group of affiliated or associated persons of beneficial ownership of 15% (which percentage may be reduced pursuant to the Rights Agreement) or more of the outstanding Common Shares, the Board of Directors of the Company may redeem the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$.01 per Right (the "Redemption Price"). The redemption of the Rights may be made effective at such time on such basis with such conditions as the Board of Directors in its sole discretion may establish.

The terms of the Rights may be amended by the Board of Directors of the Company without the consent of the holders of the Rights, including an amendment to (a) lower certain thresholds described above to not less than the greater of (i) the largest percentage of the outstanding Common Shares then known to the Company to be beneficially owned by any person or group of affiliated or associated persons (other than persons not deemed an Acquiring Person) and (ii) 10%, (b) fix a Final Expiration Date later than August 1, 2012, (c) reduce the Redemption Price or (d) increase the Purchase Price, except that from and after such time as any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person no such amendment may adversely affect the interests of the holders of the Rights (other than the Acquiring Person and its affiliates and associates).

Until a Right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a stockholder of the Company, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends.

As of July 24, 2002, there were 103,737,493 Common Shares issued and outstanding. As long as the Rights are attached to the Common Shares, the Company will issue one Right with each new Common Share so that all such shares will have Rights attached. The Company's Board of Directors has reserved for issuance upon exercise of the Rights 105,000 Preferred Shares.

Item 2. Exhibits.

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Form of Rights Agreement, including the Form of Certificate of Designations of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, the Form of Right Certificate, and the Summary of Rights to Purchase Preferred Shares, respectively attached thereto as Exhibits A, B and C.

## **SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

Date: July 25, 2002

TOUCH AMERICA HOLDINGS, INC.

/s/ J. P. Pederson

Name: J. P. Pederson

Title: Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer

## EXHIBIT INDEX

### **Exhibit**

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